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STATE FOR AF/E AND S/CT

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SUBJECT: IGAD TO HOST WORKSHOP ON COMBATTING TERRORISM:
CJTF-HOA CHIEF INVITED

11. (U) During Ambassador's September 20 call on Dr. Attalla Hamad Bashir, Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), to present an invitation to him to attend a meeting of the Africa Partnership Forum (septel), Dr. Attalla indicated to her that he had extended to General Samuel Helland, Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA), an invitation to speak at an IGAD workshop on terrorism. The workshop, called the second IGAD Regional Workshop on Prevention and Combatting Terrorism, is scheduled to be held at the White Sands Hotel in Mombassa, Kenya on 18-21 October, according to Bashir. He wanted the Ambassador to encourage the General's participation.

12. (U) According to Dr. Bashir, the workshop is intended to bring together high-level members of IGAD member states from Defense, Internal Security, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a way toward development of a coordinated regional strategy for dealing with terrorism in the region. He said he believed the CJTF-HOA has a perspective on this subject that might be useful in development of a strategy for achieving this. As such, the invitation to General Helland was a request that he present a paper on "The Challenges of the Task Force in Combatting Terrorism in the Horn of Africa."

13. (U) The draft agenda for the conference, which Bashir shared with Ambassador, envisioned presentations by United Nations, European Union, and African Union experts on terrorism as well as statements by member states on the issue. Also planned is a presentation by consultants Peter Marwa and Dr. Anneli Botha on the threat of terrorism in the region. The conference would conclude with the presentation, discussion and adoption of a draft action plan for IGAD states.

14. (SBU) Ambassador told Bashir that she agreed that the conference could be a very useful mechanism for close consultation and coordination among IGAD states on the issue of terrorism. However, she was not sure of General Helland's schedule in the time frame noted, but would certainly encourage his participation or that of another representative of CJTF-HOA in his behalf.
RAGSDALE